

# EDUCATION: THE KEY TO WASHINGTON'S LONG-TERM SUCCESS



*Representative  
Kelli Linville*

What's the best way for Washington to realize long-term economic and community success? I believe education is the answer. Children in the K-12 system are the state's next generation of workers, entrepreneurs, professionals, artists, teachers and more. Their educational experience plays a major role in shaping their life direction.

Washington has a great public school system, but it can be improved in some ways. That's why the Legislature passed a series of student-focused, foundational education reforms over the past two years. In

fact, they're the most sweeping reforms in 30 years.

Even in the midst of the worst economic conditions in generations, K-12 continues to be the largest expenditure of the state budget, and it was affected the least in the face of recent multi-billion-dollar cutbacks. About 43 percent of the budget is for public schools—that's roughly \$13.4 billion.

## HISTORIC REFORM

During the 2009 session we passed landmark reforms for school funding, setting in motion a set of specific new changes this session. They include a revamped funding model that simplifies the budgeting process and increases transparency, a requirement for more state money for local maintenance and operations costs, and a gradual phase-in of smaller K-3rd grade classes by 2017.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Supporting high-performing schools and having the tools to turn around low-performing ones are critical to student success. Legislation passed this year

ushers in a new four-level evaluation system for teachers and principals, and it expands opportunities to recruit and prepare talented new teachers. It also outlines new strategies for turning around schools that persistently underperform.

## EARLY LEARNING

Research shows that the earliest years of age are where education dollars can have the greatest effect, helping to ensure no child starts behind. This year I supported a bill that establishes a voluntary program of early learning for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds. Funding will be phased in over the next eight years.

I'm confident that these reforms will improve outcomes for the more than 27,000 public-school students here in Whatcom County. Our community is fortunate to have a strong network of students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators, and I look forward to even better things as these reforms take hold. If you have questions, concerns or ideas about education or any other legislative topic, please contact my office.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Linville". The signature is fluid and cursive.

42<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

## CONTACT MY OFFICE

**Email:** [linville.kelli@leg.wa.gov](mailto:linville.kelli@leg.wa.gov)

**Web:** <http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/linville>

**Phone:** 360.786.7854

**Mail:** PO Box 40600 / Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**KELLI LINVILLE**

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

WASHINGTON STATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Chair -**

House Ways & Means Committee



**42<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT**

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## REFORMING AND IMPROVING EDUCATION

- SCHOOL FUNDING
- PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- EARLY LEARNING

*Flip over for details*

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WA STATE DEPT  
OF PRINTING 98501